

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France in
Genoa, Italy
July 21, 2001

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for coming by. I'm looking forward to our discussion. The meetings have been very productive here in Genoa. We've discussed a lot of important issues and agreed upon—had some important agreements, starting with the need to advance trade in the new round of global trade discussions.

We also understand that countries such as France and the United States must assume more responsibility, helping nations help themselves, particularly on the continent of Africa. We had a fantastic meeting last night with some of the continent's leaders. President Chirac was most eloquent about Africa and our responsibilities, and world leaders agreed with him, and I do too.

And as well, I'm very concerned about the violence. It's a tragic loss of life that occurred. It's also tragic that many police officers have been hurt, men and women who are trying to protect democratically elected leaders and our necessary right to be able to discuss our common problems.

In Washington, DC, Mr. President, I said as clearly as I could, and I'll say it here again, those who claim to represent the voices of the poor aren't doing so. Those protesters who try to shut down our talks on trade and aid don't represent the poor, as far as I'm concerned.

I appreciate the work of the Italian Government, the mayor of Genoa, the good people of this country for providing a secure atmosphere where the G-8, democratically elected leaders, as well as leaders from Africa, Central America, Asia—leaders who represent the poor of the world could come—the poor of the world, by the way, who spoke very clearly and eloquently about the need for nations such as ours to open up our markets, nations such as ours to help develop education infrastruc-

tures, nations such as ours to forgive debt—

President Chirac. And health.

President Bush. —and health, absolutely, and health. So this has been a very productive meeting. It's been productive because we've met and agreed. It's also very productive because it gives me a chance to continue dialog with a friend such as Jacques Chirac.

People may not remember, but even before I became sworn in as President, in between the election, when it finally ended, and my swearing-in, the first world leader I met with was President Chirac. I knew him to be a man of principle. He articulated his principles to me then, and he continues to do so, for which I am most grateful.

So Mr. President, thank you for being here. I'm honored to have you.

President Chirac. Merci. I must say that I absolutely share the feelings expressed by President Bush as concerns the efficiency of the organization of the summit, the efficiency which has been somewhat overshadowed by the events. But it was, indeed, a very positive summit. And it has enabled us to become aware of the problems of populations of Asia and Africa.

Last night at dinner was very instructive. We have spoken with mainly African leaders who have decided to take greater control over their own destiny, and we have pledged ourselves to support them in their desire for sustainable development.

Obviously, we have all been traumatized by the events. I shall not give any judgment, except to say that the elected leaders of our countries have to consider the problems that have brought tens of thousands of our compatriots, mainly from European countries, to demonstrate—to demonstrate their concern, to demonstrate their wish

to change. And my last thoughts will be for the people of Genoa, who have been, indeed, as traumatized as we have by the events in the city.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:06 p.m. at the Jolly Marina Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Giuseppe Pericu of Genoa. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and an Exchange With Reporters in Genoa July 21, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to be meeting today with one of America's strongest friends and allies and one of Europe's strongest and best leaders. I appreciate Gerhard Schroeder's openness, his grasp of issues that are important not only to Europe but to the world. I told the press earlier that we've had a very, very positive dialog. We discussed a lot of important issues: how to expand global trade as well as how to assume our responsibilities as wealthier nations to the poor nations in a constructive way. It's been a very good experience, and it's also been a positive experience to be able to again sit down with friends and continue our dialog from days gone by.

So Mr. Chancellor, thank you for being here.

Chancellor Schroeder. Thanks.

President Bush. I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

Q. Mr. President and Mr. Chancellor, can you both address whether you've reached any kind of accommodation on global warming and the Kyoto treaty?

President Bush. We have reached an accommodation, and here it is.

Q. Can you talk about it?

President Bush. Yes, I'd be glad to. We both agree to reduce greenhouse gases, and we both agree to continue dialog.

Q. On how—the dialog on how—

President Bush. On how, right. And I will explain to the Chancellor that our Nation will come with a strategy. We're in the process of developing one. But I can't be any more sincere than I have been in saying that we need to reduce greenhouse gases, and we'll work a plan to do so.

But I've also been very open with the Chancellor, from my very first visit in the Oval Office, that the methodology in the Kyoto accord is something that would harm our Nation's economy. And therefore, we're looking for a different alternative to achieve the same goal.

And I will tell you this: In Sweden, Chancellor Schroeder was very, very strong in his statement about Kyoto and very positive about his position there; on the other hand, was—explained to the other leaders that my position, while he didn't agree with it, was one that he understood. And I appreciated very much his leadership there.

Chancellor Schroeder. Certainly, the President is very right in just saying that we do share the same targets here. Both of us are thinking that it is very important that we do substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That is very important, indeed. And we will obviously have to get into a very intensive dialog about these things. This will have to happen; some things will have to happen as a consequence of it.